

1 I CLAIM:

2 1. In a display sign having a support plate, a plurality of cards, and a hinge that retains each
3 of the cards to enable the cards to be folded from one side of the hinge to another side of the
4 hinge to display numerals, the improvement comprising:

5 a retaining member having a periphery containing a lobe portion and being rotatable from
6 a retaining position, wherein the lobe portion overlies an edge portion of one of the cards, to an
7 open position, wherein the lobe portion is free of the edge portion of said one of the cards; and

8 a lock assembly on the retaining member that includes a threaded member that is
9 rotatable between a locked position, preventing rotation of the retaining member while in the
10 retaining position, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the retaining member from
11 the retaining to the open position.

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13 2. The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the lock assembly further comprises a
14 threaded receptacle stationarily carried by the support plate, the threaded member engaging the
15 threaded receptacle.

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17 3. The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the retaining member is rotatable about an
18 axis of the threaded member between the retaining and open positions.

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20 4. The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the lock assembly further comprises an
21 aperture formed in the support plate and a lug on the retaining member that engages the aperture
22 while the threaded member is in the locked position and disengages from the aperture while the
23 threaded member is in the unlocked position.

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2 5. The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the lock assembly moves the retaining
3 member toward the support plate while the threaded member is being rotated in one direction
4 and away from the support plate while the threaded member is being rotated in an opposite
5 direction.

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7 6. The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the lock assembly further comprises an
8 aperture formed in the support plate and a lug on the retaining member that engages the aperture
9 while the threaded member is in the locked position and disengages from the aperture while the
10 threaded member is in the unlocked position, the lug being located on a periphery of the
11 retaining member opposite from the lobe portion.

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13 7. The display sign according to claim 1, wherein:
14 the lock member moves the retaining member toward the support plate while the threaded
15 member is being rotated toward the locked position and away from the support plate while the
16 threaded member is being rotated toward the unlocked position; and
17 the retaining member is biased toward the support plate.

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19 8. In a display sign having a support plate, a plurality of cards located on a forward side of
20 the support plate, and a hinge that retains each of the cards to enable the cards to be folded from
21 a first side of the hinge to a second side of the hinge on the forward side of the support plate, the
22 improvement comprising:

1 a fastener shank extending from the forward side of the support plate on the first side of
2 the hinge;

3 a retaining member having a cavity through which the shank of the fastener extends, the
4 retaining member being rotatable about an axis of the shank from a retaining position overlying
5 an edge portion of one of the cards to an open position free of the edge portion of said one of the
6 cards;

7 an aperture in the support plate adjacent the fastener shank;

8 a lug on a rearward side of the retaining member for selective engagement with the
9 aperture when the retaining member is in the retaining position, preventing rotation of the
10 retaining member to the open position;

11 a rearward facing shoulder on the fastener shank;

12 a coil spring encircling the fastener shank within the cavity of the retaining member and
13 compressed between the shoulder on the fastener shank and a forward facing shoulder in the
14 cavity; and

15 the shoulder on the fastener shank being movable toward and away from the support plate
16 to selectively allow the retaining member to be pulled forward from the support plate sufficiently
17 to free the lug from the aperture to enable the retaining member to be rotated.

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19 9. The display sign according to claim 8, wherein the shoulder on the fastener shank
20 comprises a head formed on the fastener shank, and wherein the shoulder on the fastener shank is
21 movable toward and away from the support plate by rotation of the fastener shank.

1 10. The display sign according to claim 8, wherein the shoulder on the fastener shank bears
2 against a forward facing portion of the retaining member, and the retaining member in turn bears
3 against the edge portion of said one of the cards to prevent axial movement of the retaining
4 member relative to the fastener shank.

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6 11. The display sign according to claim 8, further comprising a second forward facing
7 shoulder in the cavity that is spaced forward of the first mentioned forward facing shoulder in the
8 cavity, the head on the fastener shank being dimensioned to pass into the cavity into contact with
9 the second forward facing shoulder, but unable to pass within the cavity rearward of the second
10 forward facing shoulder.

11
12 12. A display sign, comprising:

13 a support plate;

14 at least one card;

15 a fastener having a head and a threaded shank that engages a threaded receptacle mounted
16 to the support plate adjacent an edge of the card;

17 a retaining member having a cavity through which the shank of the fastener extends, the
18 retaining member being rotatable about an axis of the shank from a retaining position overlying
19 an edge of the card to an open position free of the edge of the card;

20 an aperture in the support plate adjacent the fastener;

21 a lug on the retaining member for selective engagement with the aperture when the
22 retaining member is in the retaining position, preventing rotation of the retaining member to the
23 open position; and wherein

rotating the fastener in a first direction moves the head closer toward the support plate to a locked position, wherein the head of the fastener prevents the lug from disengagement with the aperture, and rotating the fastener in a second direction moves the head away from the support plate to an unlocked position, wherein the head of the fastener allows the lug to be disengaged from the aperture.

13. The display sign according to claim 12, further comprising a spring mounted between the head of the fastener and the retaining member for urging the retaining member toward the support plate.

14. The display sign according to claim 12, wherein the threaded receptacle is stationarily mounted to a rearward side of the support plate, and the shank of the fastener protrudes from a forward side of the support plate.

15. The display sign according to claim 12, wherein the spring comprises a coil spring encircling the shank of the fastener, the spring being compressed between the head of the fastener and a shoulder formed in the cavity.

16. The display sign according to claim 12, wherein the retaining member has a periphery that includes a lobe portion and a clearance portion, the lobe portion protruding radially farther from the axis than the clearance portion to overly an edge of the card.

1 17. The display sign according to claim 12, wherein the head of the fastener bears against the
2 retaining member while in the locked position.

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4 18. The display sign according to claim 12, wherein:

5 the retaining member has a periphery that includes a lobe portion and a clearance portion,
6 the lobe portion protruding radially farther from the axis of the shank than the clearance portion
7 to overly an edge of the card; and

8 the lug is located on the periphery of the retaining member opposite from the lobe
9 portion.